

### **Consideration of the dedication of the Smith-Crisler Nature Preserve**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 40.0 acre property that is in the western portion of Henry County, approximately 1.0 mile north of the town of Mechanicsburg and 1.0 mile east of the Madison County line. This nature preserve protects an example of mesic/dry mesic upland forest within the Tipton Till Plain Section of the Central Till Plain Natural Region.

This Nature Preserve occurs on an interesting landform as it is the eastern bluff of Fall Creek and is incised by two tributaries to this stream. It is these elevational changes that lend the site such aesthetic and botanic variety and interest. The mixed-mesophytic forests are impressive and diverse; the site is noted for abundant spring wildflowers.

Noteworthy spring ephemeral species found in this Nature Preserve include: Hepatica - *Hepatica nobilis*, Bloodroot - *Sanguinaria canadensis* L, Appendaged waterleaf - *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*, Prairie trillium – *Trillium recurvatum*. The forest is dominated by White oak – *Quercus alba*, Red oak – *Quercus rubra*, and Basswood – *Tilia americana*.

The Crisler family generously contributed a charitable donation through a bargain sale, and funding from Indiana Heritage Trust were used to help acquire this site. This tract is owned and managed by the Red-tail Land Conservancy.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

## Smith-Crisler Nature Preserve

## Exhibit A

County: Henry  
Size: 40.0 acres

USGS Map: 7.5 Quad Middleton  
Ownership: DNR Nature Preserves



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 05.09.2012

0 0.05 0.1 Miles

